

THE JEWISH HERALD

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DR. WISE IN LONDON.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, rabbi of the Free Synagogue, New York City, delivered an address last week at Portman Rooms, in Baker street, London, on the subject, "What is Liberal Judaism?" Dr. Wise said in part:

"We are told from time to time that we must not forever accent the adjectives, that ours is not Orthodox Judaism, nor liberal Judaism, nor reform Judaism, nor conservative Judaism, but Judaism. Be it noted that it is we who are emphasizing that we are Jews, that ours is Judaism. Liberal or reform is not a term of derisiveness, nor even of distinctiveness, but rather, let us hope, of distinction. Ours is not liberal something or reform something, nor are we liberal somebodies, but we are liberal Jews, and ours is liberal Judaism. Liberal Judaism is not a way out of Judaism, but a method of return to Judaism. Liberal Judaism is Judaism militant, not moribund, vitally self-determining, not apathetically drifting, greatly daring, not feebly fearful.

"Let men be responsible and ask themselves—it is not disloyalty, is it indifference, is it iconoclasm that moves Mr. Montefiore and his splendid associates, and similar groups in America, to take up the banner of reform Judaism? Is it false that ours, as has lately been said, is an American Jewish journal; is an irreducible minimum of Judaism. It is an irreducible minimum of the things not worth while in Judaism. It is the maximum of that in and of Judaism which is worth while.

"We are liberals because we would conserve. It is our very conservatism, our zeal to conserve all that is best in the religion and life of Israel, that moves us to take the position which is our."

Beth Israel services Friday at 8 o'clock. Subject of Dr. Barnstein's lecture, "The Hebrew View of Art and Life."

ASKED TO RESPECT PASSPORTS.

Washington.—President Taft has instructed the American ambassador at St. Petersburg, Mr. Rockhill, to make strong representations to the inviolability of American passports in that country. Mr. Rockhill (it is stated, will take the matter up personally with the Russian emperor.

In an interview, President Taft said that he was personally deeply interested in the matter and that he had given Mr. Rockhill the instructions referred to above as one of the most important features of his mission to Russia.

TEXAS JEWISH COLONY.

San Antonio, Tex., March 2.—Samuel B. Becker of Hartford, Conn., president of the Federation of Jewish Farmers of America, is again in San Antonio. He has just completed a trip of investigation over Texas and Mexico. His trip will probably result in the establishment of a big Jewish colony both in Texas and Mexico. He is now negotiating for land in Southwest Texas and for a big concession in Mexico.

IMMIGRANT BADLY INJURED.

Isaac Clainbaum, who came to this country some time ago, landed at Galveston and was sent to Waco by the distribution bureau. He then came back to Houston and secured work at the S. P. shops, where he was doing nicely. During the celebration of Texas Independence day, some boys bought a few canon crackers (giving one of them to Clainbaum's son, who in turn gave it to the father. It seems rather odd that Clainbaum knew enough to apply a match to the thing, but did not know it should be thrown out after the light was applied. The result is that three fingers were blown off the right hand. He was taken to St. Joseph's infirmary and is in a very low condition.

NO LONGER "DESPISED JEW."

At the conclusion of an excellent article, "The Scattered Nation," written for the B'nai Brith News, by Adlai E. Stevenson, former vice-president of the United States, is the following passage:

He is no longer the "despised Jew," the pariah, the alien, the mystical "Shylock"—the monstrous creation of Shakespeare—but an important factor in all human affairs, the citizen of a country he can well call his own. He is to be found in the busy mart as well as in the humbler callings of life; in the society of the most cultured, as well as along the humbler walks; in the palatial home as well as in the hovel.

In this land of equal opportunity, no longer bewailing his fate as one of "the scattered nations," with no longing for segregation within the narrow limits of Palestine, but content with his surroundings, proud of the country of his adoption, the Jew is patiently, surely, hopefully working out his own destiny.

ITALY HAS TWO JEWISH SENATORS.

Among the 33 senators nominated by royal decree are two Jews—Signori Martara and Polacco. The former is a son of the late Rabbi Marco Martara, and has been professor of civil procedure at Pisa and Naples. His culture and reputation as a purist gained him an appointment at the Court of Cassation in Rome. He has also been president of the Court of Appeal at Ancona and recently was "procureur-general" at the Court of Cassation in the capital.

Signor Polacco is also a lawyer, having taught civil law at the University of Padua. Later he was elected rector of that famous seat of learning. He takes an active part in Jewish religious life and has published a work on "Jews and Divorce in Italy."